

Better Homes and Centers



Michigan Department of
Social Services

Fire Safety

Issue 22 Fall 1989

I COULDN'T COUNT TO NINE ... OR THE DAY THE CHRISTMAS CACTUS DIED

*By Sandra Settergren
Day Care Home Licensing Consultant
Washtenaw County*

It was cold. I don't ever remember it being that cold before. The temperature was 25 below zero and the wind chill was down to 80 below. Nine of us had gathered to spend the holidays at my sister's rambling old house in Illinois. We ranged in age from almost 3 to almost 75. It happened in the wee hours of Christmas Eve morning in 1982.

We were all tucked away for the night when it seemed to be especially cold in the house. Once again the wind had blown out the pilot light on the old furnace. No one knew how long it had been out, but it was quickly relighted and we all went back to bed. About 3 a.m. my youngest nephew woke up complaining of a stomach ache. He woke up several people who tried to make him more comfortable. My sister said it must be the flu because she too was sick and needed to get back to bed immediately.

Somehow someone opened a window for a little fresh air and a few of us agreed that something must be wrong. We were all weak, nauseous and confused. We decided to leave the house and go across the street where it was warm and the air was fresh. Several people didn't want to leave. They were too tired and it was too late. They had to be urged and almost dragged along. My sister was quite certain that you should not make a person with the flu leave her warm bed and trek outside. She was not easy to convince.

I remember knowing that we had to leave the house because of some problem with the furnace. I remember how weak my legs felt and how I sat down in the middle of the floor feeling too tired to go on. My 18-year-old niece was unwilling to go outside unless her boots were tied. This became an extremely important issue to her. She couldn't see how the color of her face

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The scent of the pine tree, the sight of beautifully wrapped presents, and the glow of the Menorah candles are familiar parts of the winter holidays. When mixed with the excitement of young children, these can be dangerous in the child care setting. Pine trees can quickly erupt into flames; presents are wrapped in papers and ribbons; candles are often wobbly in their stands.

Trees

Natural — Select a freshly cut tree. The limbs and needles should feel resilient to the touch. No more than 72 hours before setting up, make a fresh cut at least one inch above the original cut.

- Use a tree holder that has a large reservoir. Keep it filled and add one of the commercially available products which prolong the ability of the tree to absorb water.
- Remove the tree immediately if it becomes unusually dry. Choose a tree that does not exceed eight feet in height.

Plastic — A plastic tree which is "flame resistant" and bears the Underwriters' Laboratories Label is acceptable.

- Exercise care in selecting a plastic tree as each needle represents a burnable surface.
- Plastics used in Christmas trees are NOT noncombustible but simply slow burning.

Metallic — Trees of the aluminum alloy type. NO tree lights are permitted.

- Use a remote floor light with a color wheel.

Provide substantial support so trees cannot be easily tipped or knocked over.

Locate trees in a remote area of the room. Do not block or obstruct exits or aisles.

Lights

- Use only electric lights bearing the label of a nationally known testing laboratory.
- Supervise the use of electric lights.
- Discard cracked electrical cords, broken plugs and other poor connections.

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I COULDN'T COUNT...

(Continued from page 1)

and the color of her white robe were virtually the same. Different people insisted on taking different things with them which only delayed the exiting. Even the dog seemed resistant to moving at his usual ferocious pace.

When we got across the street, I wanted to make sure we had all left the house. Somehow I knew there were nine of us, so I started to count. I tried several times. I could not count to nine. That frightened me more than anything. I felt so completely out of control.

The fire department was called and came with oxygen for several of us. We learned that when the furnace was out, moisture had condensed in the chimney on the screen which is designed to keep out birds and debris. It was frozen solid from the extreme cold. The house then filled with carbon monoxide gas. We were lucky to be alive.

Carbon monoxide gas is so dangerous because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and extremely poisonous. Its victims become drowsy and unable to recognize their own danger. It causes headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea and fainting. In severe cases it causes a weak pulse, coma and respiratory failure. The victims do not turn blue. Instead the skin is pink or pale and the lips are bright red.

The gas is poisonous because it interferes with the ability of the blood to carry oxygen. Recovery from mild intoxication can be complete. Prolonged exposure to breathing high concentrations can result in permanent tissue damage, especially to the heart and central nervous system.

Whenever I'm asked about the need for furnace inspections, I think about that Christmas Eve morning. Carbon monoxide gas most frequently enters the home because of a defective furnace or a stopped-up flue. All fuel-burning equipment, flue pipes and chimneys should be properly maintained and regularly checked by qualified service people. This is not something you can think about at a later date. On that later date you may not be able to think at all.

Our family was lucky. We suffered no lasting effects from this experience. It was frightening and unforgettable. I always remember the lovely Christmas cactus my sister had in her dining room. When we were able to return to the house, we all cringed when we saw its green leaves dropping so pitifully and so lifelessly. However, a Christmas cactus can be replaced.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER...

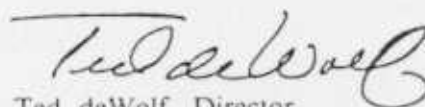
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- Do not overload circuits. Cords should not be run under rugs.
- Place electrical cords out of reach of children.

Other Decorations

- Use noncombustible tree decorations such as metal or glass.
- Do not use lighted wax candles. Displaying unlit candles is permissible.
- Keep hanging decorations to a minimum. Paper or other flammable decorations, regardless of whether they are flame-proofed, are not recommended.
- Make colorful chains by stringing popcorn and cranberries.
- Place decorations out of reach of infants and toddlers.
- Keep low-hanging decorations on trees to a minimum.

As you decorate for these special times, remember, by taking a few precautions and always using your "fireman's eye," a safe and happy holiday season with traditional decorations is assured.



Ted deWolf, Director
Division of Child Day Care Licensing

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ESCAPE PLANNING FOR DAY CARE CENTERS

(Reprinted from Delaware Fire School Journal — August 1986)

The smoke detector is going off with a continuous, loud shrill sound. You see wisps of smoke and realize something is wrong. You have six young children in your day care center and know you must get them all safely out of the building with the least amount of confusion. You sound the alarm by calmly announcing a fire drill. Everyone groups as prearranged and files out. This is an ideal scenario, but having this occur takes preplanning and practice by caregivers and children.

Young children are a high risk group in fires. Without prior training and fire drill practice they are incapable of making decisions necessary when evacuating a building. This is why children should be taught early to take fire drills seriously. They need to be taught specific and clear instructions on escaping. Children are easily frightened and, many times, hide because they know of no other way to escape from the smoke and flames. Children's bodies have often been found by firefighters in unusual places where they had hidden, thinking they were safe.

A properly organized fire drill can become an established positive behavior to last a lifetime. Preparation in advance will allow the caregiver to plan and consider the alternatives before the event of a fire. In planning evacuation procedures, the guidelines to follow are: (1) sound the alarm; (2) evacuate everyone; (3) call the fire department from a phone outside the burning building; (4) fight the fire only if you are trained, the fire is small and you can extinguish it quickly.

Smoke detectors as early warning devices, when properly installed and maintained, will give you precious time to escape. Routine fire drills where the children, upon hearing the alarm, know to group and evacuate the building from the closest exit will help in keeping confusion — sometimes called panic — from occurring. The children should be familiar with the sound of the smoke detector so that they are not confused or frightened by the sudden loud noise. Using substitute devices such as whistles will not provide the same results in a true fire incident. They need to be taught to respond to the actual sound of the smoke detector or alarming device.

The caregiver can reinforce the orderly evacuation by keeping calm and verbally announcing a fire drill, just like one of their routine drills.

Some suggestions for evacuating several infants at one time might be to place them in a large blanket or sheet and either drag them out or bundle them together to carry them out. They might be uncomfortable at the time but speed in getting everyone safely out is more important than comfort. Young, walking children can be taught to hold hands and file out, going to a designated meeting place. Crawling low should also be practiced and an explanation of why this is being

done should be given to the children. In many fire incidents, smoke inhalation has been a contributing factor in the fire deaths recorded.

Assigning a designated meeting place will provide the children an area to meet you and provide you with a means to account for all the children in your care. Once the children gather at the designated meeting place they should be taken to a nearby home or facility where, through prior arrangements, they can be kept together, supervised and protected from inclement weather or the possibility of trying to return to the burning building. Another adult at this time should be prepared to stay with the children because you may be needed at the fire scene to answer questions. If possible, phone numbers of the children's parents should be carried out with you to expedite notification of parents or relatives in case of injury or the closing of the day care site because of damage.

Once the alarm has been sounded and the children have been evacuated, the fire department needs to be notified of the fire. All of this should occur in just a couple of minutes. Fire is fast and deadly. When calling in an emergency, give your full name, location of the fire, telephone number you are calling from, type of emergency, and then wait for any questions from the dispatcher. The location of the emergency is not always your mailing address. A post office box number or rural delivery number is not enough information for directions. You need to provide road numbers, street names, housing development names or any distinct landmarks. This will assist the fire department in responding quickly to the fire scene. Giving the phone number of the phone from which you are calling is especially important; you should be calling the emergency number from a phone outside the burning building. You should not give your business phone number because the fire dispatcher sometimes needs to call back the reporting person to ask for more information.

When should you attempt to extinguish the fire? Every day care center should have a fire extinguisher. But using fire extinguishers to put out fires requires training. Many small fires have been spread, causing major property damage and personal injury to those attempting to fight the fires. Adequate training will provide the knowledge and experience necessary to make the decision to fight the fire or evacuate and wait for professional help. This is one important reason it is important to evacuate everyone and notify the fire department before attempting to fight the fire. You could become trapped or injured and unable to escape or contact others for assistance. You should only consider fighting the fire if it is small and can be

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SUGGESTIONS FOR FIRE EVACUATION PLANS FOR HOMES

*By Judy Gaspar
Center Licensing Consultant
Kalamazoo County*

So you wrote up an evacuation plan and purchased a ladder because your consultant said you had to. Is that good enough or is there more to it?

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the majority (85.6 percent) of deaths in building fires occur in private dwellings, including one- and two-family homes and apartments. Most of these deaths occur during the sleeping hours. The majority of fires occur during the dinner hour, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., but a fire can occur at any time.

The purpose of fire drills is to practice enough so that you and the children have an automatic response to the fire drill signal. In fires, people tend to panic. Decision making can be impaired due to the rapidly changing nature of each actual fire and due to toxic fumes in the smoke.

In a house fire, you will have a very brief period of time to evacuate the children before smoke overtakes you. This could be just a few minutes. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to prepare the children so that they can understand the procedures and follow your directions. There will not be enough time for getting shoes, boots or coats on, and there will be no forewarning.

Following are some suggestions for you to consider when planning and implementing an evacuation plan for your home.

I. Evacuation Plans

- Develop a written evacuation plan for each area of your home that children use for playing or sleeping. Include rooms on the main floor as well as basement and upper floors, if applicable. Make sure all adults are familiar with this plan.
- Identify a safe meeting place outside the home. Count heads when you get there.
- Identify two ways to get out of every room that children use. Possibilities include exit doors, openable windows, and escape ladders (including rope ladders).
- Choose a fire alarm signal separate and distinct from all others, such as the buzzer of the smoke alarm or a bell, whistle, or horn. You should be able to hear this throughout the home.

II. Considerations

- Can you evacuate all the children in your care at one time? Never re-enter a burning building.
- Can you carry all non-walkers and also instruct the rest of the children to accompany you safely?
- Can you get down your rope ladder or out your window? While carrying a child? Can the older

children use the ladder?

- If you provide night care and sleep at the same time as the children sleep, how will you know if there is a fire emergency? A smoke detector must be installed on each floor — including the basement — of your home.
- Practice often enough so that you and the children can evacuate safely and efficiently.
- Do you have access to a nearby working telephone to call the fire department? Do you have access to a nearby home or business for shelter?

III. Night Care

- Carefully consider what rooms or areas you use for overnight care of children. Can you reach the children easily in an emergency?



- Are you providing a flashlight or other emergency lighting?
- Do you know how to check for the heat level in a fire situation? Feel the nearest closed door. If it is hot, do not open it because the air on the other side is super heated and could be fatal for you.
- In a fire emergency, young children tend to hide. Check under beds and cribs and in closets and bathrooms for any missing children.

IV. Drill Program

- Inform each assistant caregiver and emergency person of the overall plan and of her individual duties and responsibilities in the event of a fire.
- Practice a fire drill at least once every three months. Make sure every enrolled child has a chance to practice.
- Practice removing the children from every location.
- Simulate a real emergency by pretending that the primary way out is blocked; practice the drill by going out the second way. If the second story alternate route is a window exit, practice by just meeting at the window.
- Keep a written record of all drills.

FIRE SAFETY PLAN

By Kim Gluski

Group Day Care Provider, Wayne County

My family day care home is a two-story home with a main floor and a basement. There are two exits from the main floor. One exit is the front door and the other is the back door. There are two exits from the basement. One exit is to go up the stairs and out the back door. The other is a ladder to the basement window located in the bathroom. In the event that we are unable to get out of the house through the described exits, any of the other windows could be removed and used as exits out of the house.

In the event of a fire the following actions will be taken:

1. Blow the whistle three (3) times.
2. Announce that we have to leave the house immediately. Tell the children which exit to go to.
3. Take the children outside.
4. Take a head count to see that everyone is accounted for.
5. When everyone is accounted for, one adult will remain with the children and the other adult will go notify a neighbor to call the Fire Department.

Diane's Duties:

1. Go directly to the exit announced and escort the children out.
2. Take the children to the meeting place in the backyard.

3. Count the number of children present.
4. Announce to Kim when all children are accounted for.
5. Stay with the children while the Fire Department is called.

Kim's Duties:

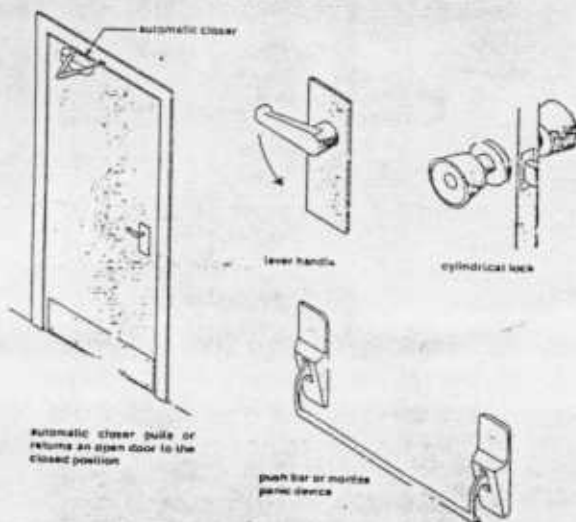
1. Grab the whistle and the card with the parents' phone numbers.
2. Blow the whistle three times.
3. Announce to the children which exit to go to by saying "we're going out the back door" or "we're going out the bathroom window."
4. Help get the children to the exit.
5. Wait until a head count has been taken and all the children are accounted for.
6. Go to a neighbor's house to call the Fire Department.

In the event we have to evacuate the house and are unable to go back in, arrangements have been made with a neighbor to accommodate the children and caregivers until they are transported to the assistant caregiver's house which is located six blocks away. A vehicle is always available and a set of keys to the vehicle and assistant's house is located on each floor. The phone numbers where the parents can be reached during the day are posted by both phones. This list is also available at the assistant's home. The parents would be notified immediately.

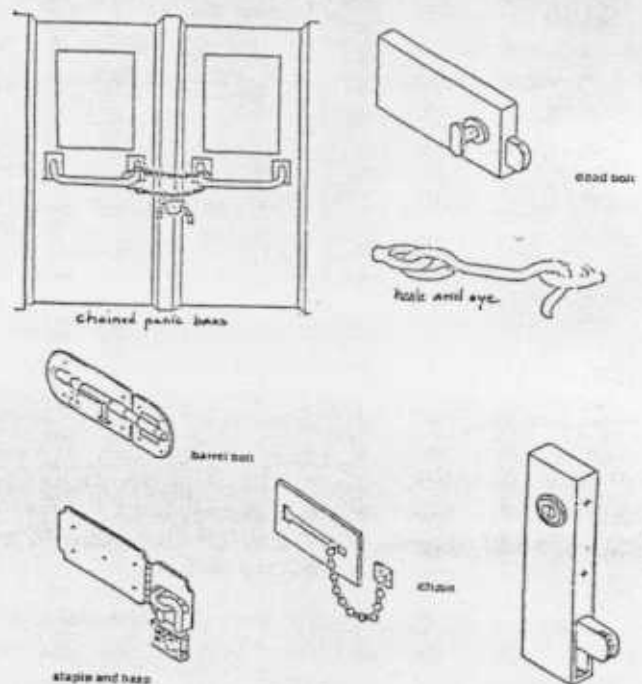
We have a log book where we record maintenance checks on the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms. We also record fire drills in the same log book. Drills are scheduled each month.

EXITS

ACCEPTABLE



UNACCEPTABLE



SMOKE DETECTORS: YOUR LIFE PRESERVER ON LAND: SMOKE, THE EARLY WARNING SIGN!

By Sue Young
Home Consultant, Ingham County

One fear shared by most people is the fear of being burned by fire. Studies show, however, that more fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not from burns. A few seconds of breathing in a smoke-filled room or hall can cause disorientation, distorted judgment, slow coordination, dizziness and nausea.

Immediate escape from smoke is one way to help insure your safety and the safety of others in your home. If you don't readily know what has caused the smoke, call the fire department and leave the house. Let the professionals with the right survival equipment explore in the smoke.

In order to comply with the new rules for family and group day care homes, effective October 3, 1989 providers will have to know about smoke detectors.

The new rule (R400.1834) states:

At least 1 single-station smoke detector that is approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory shall be installed and maintained as follows:

- (a) *On each floor of the home, including the basement.*
- (b) *Where a sleeping or resting area exists on a floor, that floor level's smoke detector shall be installed between the sleeping area and the rest of that floor.*

Smoke detectors can be readily found in most department or hardware stores. Usually the variety offered leaves one scratching one's head and wondering how to decipher the language and terms.

Ready? Step one: How it works. The smoke detector works by sounding a piercing alarm after sensing smoke from a fire. There are two types of smoke detectors available:

Photoelectric detectors are activated when the density of smoke deflects a beam of light. They react faster to smoldering fires.

Ionization chamber detectors have a radioactive source that produces electrical current within the detector. When smoke enters the detector it attaches itself to the charged molecules or ions and breaks down the flow of the electrical current which sets off the alarm. These units respond faster to flaming fire.

So we now know the alarm goes off when the smoke either deflects the beam of light or interrupts the electrical current.

Since a smoke detector is required on each floor of your home, it may be wise to purchase both a photo

electric and ionized unit or one that combines both in one unit. Two smoke detectors are not likely to fail at the same time.

Okay, now another decision: the power source.

Smoke detectors are either battery powered or draw from the household current.

Battery-powered detectors, like any such devices, require battery replacement. Generally, yearly replacement is suggested.

Detectors powered by household electrical current last as long as the power source. They are either wired directly into the circuit or plugged into an outlet. Thus, if the fire causes an immediate power failure or you unplug the detector to use the plug, you are unprotected.

The final thing to remember is to make sure you buy a quality model. Choose a model that is listed by either Underwriter's Laboratories (U.L.) or Factory Mutual Research Corp. (FM).

Your smoke detectors should be installed in each bedroom hall; at the top of the stairways and wherever else needed to protect normal existing routes of your family.

Maintenance includes routine testing. Real smoke used to activate the alarm and then fanning it away to silence it is more reliable than pushing a test button. You know how much smoke needs to gather when you use this method and know that more than the "test button" is operating.

The smoke detector you buy should clearly detail installation as well as maintenance instructions. Correct installation and regular maintenance of smoke detectors won't prevent a fire in your home but will help prevent you and others in your home from going up in smoke.



PUTTING OUT THE FIRE

Fire extinguishers are mysterious objects to the average person. What do the numbers mean? How do I use it? When should I use it?

To help you unravel the mystery we asked Don Ulrey, Supervisor of the Fire Safety Section, to discuss some of your concerns:

Where can I get training to use a fire extinguisher?

Your first contact should be the local fire department. This is a service they usually provide. Take advantage of this. Your extinguisher is only effective as your ability to use it.

What does 2A 10BC mean?

The letters refer to the type of materials that burn. The numbers refer to the size of the area involved.

Extinguishers rated A are effective on fires involving combustible materials such as wood or paper.

Extinguishers rated B are effective on fires involving flammable liquids such as gas or grease.

Extinguishers rated C are effective on electrical fires.



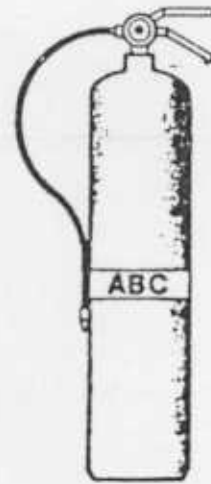
A = Combustibles



B = For Flammables



C = For Electric Fires



ABC = For All Types of Fires

Can I use a Halon extinguisher?

Yes, as long as it has the 2A 10BC rating. These extinguishers are costly.

If the gauge is not on recharge, do I still need an annual maintenance check?

Yes.

What is the difference between an inspection, a maintenance, and a recharge?

An inspection is done monthly by persons on site.

A maintenance check is done yearly and includes checking the mechanical parts, the extinguishing agent and the means of expelling.

A recharge when needed which varies from yearly to as much as every 12 years depending on the extinguisher.

What is the tag for?

The tag should tell you the month and year of the maintenance check and the name of the inspector or company providing the service. It should also indicate the type of maintenance provided.

Evacuate first. It is known that most fires can be put out if discovered in the first 5 minutes of burning when the proper extinguisher is available. So if the children are safely outside and supervised, a remaining adult familiar with the extinguisher can put out the fire.

Where should I place the extinguisher?

The extinguisher should be placed in a conspicuous location with the following specifications:

1. You should not have to go more than 75 feet to reach it.
2. It should be in a normal means of egress.
3. If it is under 40 lbs., the top should be five feet or less from the floor.
4. If it is over 40 lbs., the top should be three and a half feet from the floor.
5. The bottom must be six inches off the floor.

UP IN SMOKE

*By Judy Gaspar
Licensing Consultant
Kalamazoo County*

If you are puzzled by some of the technical terms in fire safety requirements, this list of definitions may clear the air and keep your facility from going up in smoke.

Combustible Materials — Combustible materials are materials which will readily ignite when subjected to flame. Examples of combustible materials include, but are not limited to, these items: wood, paper products, fabric, plastic, styrofoam, mops, cardboard boxes, wood screens, and wooden ladders. **Examples:**

Cardboard boxes	Christmas tree, etc.
Pieces of wood	Toilet paper, kleenex
Plastic containers	

Noncombustible materials — Examples of noncombustible materials include, but are not limited to, all metal items, masonry items, and glass items. **Examples:**

Light bulbs	Snow salt
Refrigerator	Tools

Flammable materials — Flammable materials are materials which are capable of being easily ignited and of burning with extreme rapidity. **Examples:**

Aerosol cans	Hair spray
Gasoline	Deodorant cans
Kerosene heaters	Matches
Kerosene	Lighters
Flammable paints & varnishes	Charcoal lighter
Paint stripper	Acetylene torches
Nail polish and remover	Coleman stove & fuel

Explosive substances — Explosive substances are those that on ignition undergo very rapid decomposition with the production of heat and the formation of gases which exert tremendous pressure as they expand at the high temperature that is produced. **Examples:**

Gun powder	Gas-powered lawn mowers
Empty fuel cans (gas cans)	Gas-powered snow blowers

Remember to always keep things in their original containers and out of the reach of children.



HAZARDS TO YOUR HEALTH

Empty fuel tanks, especially gas storage cans, are dangerous. You can minimize the danger by following these precautions:

- Store gas-powered equipment and gas cans in a building separate from the child care facility.
- Store gas cans off the floor so that air can circulate under the cans. This prevents cans from rusting.
- Keep empty tanks, especially gas storage cans tightly closed or filled with water. According to the N.F.P.A. Inspection Manual, "Empty tanks or drums may be dangerous because a small residue of flammable liquid may evaporate to form an explosive mixture with the air in the tank, whereas, with a tank full or partly full of gasoline or other low flash liquid the atmosphere above the liquid level is likely to be too rich to explode."



NO SMOKING — SMALL LUNGS AT WORK

*By Carole Grates
Licensing Consultant
Saginaw County*

On January 1, 1990 a new law takes effect which prohibits smoking in child care centers. The law does permit a center to provide a smoking area. However, this must be "in a private, enclosed office physically separated from, and out of sight of, the common and general child care areas."

Child care center rules have prohibited smoking in the areas where children are present since 1980. Rule 855 also requires the provision of noncombustible receptacles for the disposal of smoking materials. During licensing visits, your consultant will continue to determine compliance with Rule 855. In effect, the new law supports the existing requirements and should not pose any difficulties for providers.

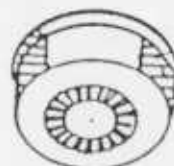
FIRE ALARMS

An approved alarm is a separate and distinct signal which cannot be used for any other purpose. A manual alarm can be a bell, whistle, horn. An electrical fire alarm is an approved, closed circuit, self-supervised system. Homes and centers have different requirements, as described in the chart below.

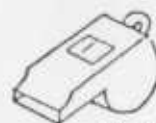
HOMES:	Manual	
CENTERS:	60 or fewer children	over 60 children
1 room	Optional	Electrical
2 rooms	Manual	Electrical
3 rooms	Manual	Electrical
4 rooms	Manual	Electrical
5 or more rooms	Electrical	Electrical



school bell



cowbell



whistle



freon horn



patio bell

PLAN REVIEWS FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS

Rule 805 requires that if you are going to change your building or build a new one, you must submit plans. If your project encompasses over 5,000 sq. ft., your plans must have an architect's seal. For projects under 5,000 sq. ft., use the following guidelines:

A. Form requirements for submitting plans:

- Plans and specifications are to be drawn to scale and submitted in duplicate.
- Plans are to be drawn on 18" x 24" graph paper or equivalent.
- Plans are to be scaled at the ratio of 1/4"=1 foot.
- Applicable exterior dimensions and interior room dimensions are to be shown on the plans.
- Intended room usage is to be designated on the plans.

B. Minimum information requirements to accompany plans:

- Type of construction (e.g., wood frame, concrete).
- Interior finish (e.g., drywall, plaster).
- Door size, type, and direction of door swing.
- Type of furnace and water heating equipment.
- Fire alarm system or automatic fire detection system (if applicable).
- Fire extinguisher type and location.

ESCAPE PLANNING...

(Continued from page 3)

controlled by one fire extinguisher. One is all you may have. But remember, the fire extinguisher is only a first-aid device and does not replace the professional firefighter who is trained and experienced in fighting fires. Your first concern is the safety of the children.

You have a great responsibility to the children in your care. They look to you to take care of them and protect them. Fire safety is a major part of this responsibility. Fire is tragic, but it is worse when a child dies, especially a child in your care. You can eliminate the chance of this happening if you maintain a fire safe residence, practice fire-safe behaviors, preplan and practice escape routes and prepare yourself and your children for the event of fire.



THE EXIT CHECKLIST

Homes

- _____ Each level occupied by children has at least two exits remote from each other.
- _____ Exits are clearly identified.
- _____ Evacuation plans are posted and staff know their responsibilities.
- _____ Exit routes are unobstructed and kept free from hazards (such as ice, furniture, toys, storage) at all times.
- _____ A window used as a second exit meets the following requirements:
 - _____ is accessible to children and caregivers.
 - _____ can be opened easily.
 - _____ is of the size and design to allow for the evacuation of children and caregivers.
- _____ a window on the second level, designated as a rescue point, has been clearly marked so it is recognizable by fire department personnel.
- _____ If space above the second level is occupied by children there are two stairwells to ground level. At least one stairwell is enclosed by at least one-hour-fire-restrictive construction.

Centers

- _____ Evacuation plans are posted and staff know their responsibilities.
- _____ Exit routes are unobstructed and kept free of hazards (such as ice, furniture, toys, storage) at all times.
- _____ Rooms with doors that open into the room do not hold anymore than 12 children at one time.

- _____ Exit doors require a single motion to open. No unapproved locks are used.
- _____ Exit signs are posted over each door to the outside. They are distinctive in color and have the word "exit" in plain, legible letters at least 6 inches high on a background of contrasting color with strokes not less than 1/4 inch wide.



RESOURCES — FIRE SAFETY

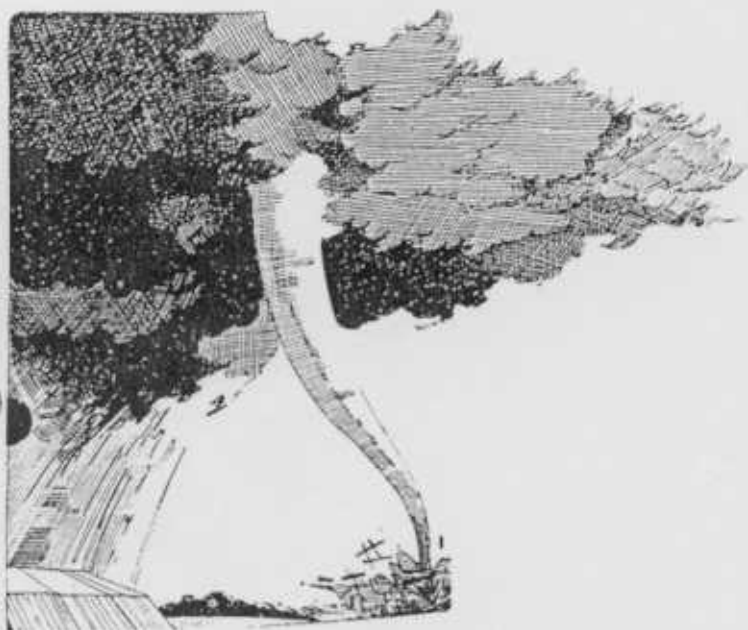
- Heating With Wood, Safety Guidelines*, Bureau of Regulatory Services, Michigan Department of Social Services, January, 1983.
- Home and Family Safety booklets*, Channing L. Bete Company, Inc., 200 State Road, South Deerfield, MA 01373, 1-800-628-7733.
- Is the "Silent Killer" Lurking In Your Home?* Volunteers' Voice for Community Safety and Health, September-October, 1988, National Safety Council, 444 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.
- Merry Christmas With Safety*, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207, 1-800-638-2666.
- Safe At Home, Early Childhood Safety Curriculum*, Shinn and Associates, Inc., 2853 W. Jolly, Okemos, MI 48864, 517/332-0211.
- Sesame Street Fire Safety Resource Books*, available

- through Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 1-800-654-4055.
- Shriners Burns Institutes fire prevention pamphlets: (1) *Home Fire Escape Plan for Survival*, (2) *How Safe Is Your Kitchen?*, (3) *How Flammable is Your Tent?*, (4) *Microwave Burn Prevention*, (5) *Trapped in a Burning Building*, and (6) *A Match is a Tool*. Shrine International Headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607, 813/885-2575.
- The Story of The Little Red Fire Hat*, available through Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 1-800-654-4055.
- What You Should Know About Smoke Detectors*, January, 1985, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207, 1-800-638-CPSC.

P.S. TORNADOS TAKE PLANNING TOO!

Both home and center rules require you to have written emergency procedures to insure the safety of children during tornados. As you devise these procedures, here are some guidelines to keep in mind.

1. Understand the difference between:
 - a. A tornado watch which means that tornado conditions exist, and
 - b. Tornado warning which means that a tornado has been sighted in your area. When a tornado warning is announced, this is the time to go to your designated safe area.



2. Choose the safest area as a designated shelter. Keep in mind that it should be:
 - a. A basement, bedroom or bathroom, closet, hallway or anything with walls.
 - b. On the lowest level of the building, away from the furnace or hot water heater; under the stairwell.
 - c. Toward the center of the building.
 - d. With the least amount of glass.
3. If there is no place in your building that meets these criteria, or if you are in a mobile home (whether or not it is tied down) you must leave and go to a designated shelter or other safe place.
 - a. If there is no designated shelter get out of the mobile home park.
 - b. Make an arrangement to use, a nearby safe place such as a neighbor's basement, a community shelter, or a school.

Equip your shelter with a portable am radio, flashlight, extra batteries, and first aid kit.

Consider providing a potty chair, toys, books, snacks,

blankets or other items to help the children feel secure.

5. Keep the plan simple. It should include duties for caregiving staff such as what will take the attendance sheet.
6. Review the plan thoroughly with the caregiving so they are familiar with it.
7. Post the plan in a prominent place.
8. If you are not in your building and you see a funnel cloud, lie flat in an open field or in a gully or ditch.

DO NOT stay in a vehicle. Get into the lowest area away from the vehicle.

The reason for getting out of a vehicle is that a tornado circulates around and sucks air upward. Air can get underneath a vehicle or a mobile home, causing them to rise off of the ground. Therefore, you want to go where the wind can not get under you.

Plan for tornados before they occur. You will be glad you did!

PROVIDER'S CORNER



On April 14, 1989, a fire occurred in a family day care home. The house burned to the ground in seven minutes and two cars next to the house exploded. Happily there were no casualties. The provider was caring for two children at the time, a 4-year-old and an infant.

The fire started from a gas leak which caused the hot water heater to ignite. The smoke detector by the hot water heater did not function. The provider felt that because she had practiced fire drills, she was able to get the children out safely.

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